Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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13AF CLARK AFB PI IMMEDIATE
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CINCPACAF IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS, MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: US/RP MILITARY-TO-MILITARY DISCUSSIONS

REF: (A) CINCPACREPPHIL 070900 Z JUNE 78 (B) MANILA 9230 (C) STATE 136988 (D) MANILA 8595 (E) STATE 101006 (F) MANILA 9620

1. STATE OBSERVATIONS ON THE PROPOSALS REGARDING THE AGENDA FOR THE MILITARY-TO-MILITARY TALKS CONTAINED REFS A AND B ARE LISTED BELOW. CONFIDENTIAL

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2. ASIDE FROM NORMAL PHILIPPINE POSTURING AND INTRODUCTION OF NEGOTIATING POSITIONS INTO PHIL AGENDA PROPOSALS, IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT MRGING OF AGENDA OUTLINED IN REFS A, B, C, AND D WILL POSE INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLES. SIMPLE US AGENDA WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE MOST DIRECT MEANS OF GETTING ON WITH THE WORK BUT WE SEE BENEFIT IN ADAPTING TO ACCEPT-

ABLE PORTIONS OF PHIL PROPOSED AGENDA AS LONG AS IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS DOES NOT IMPLY US ACCEPTANCE OF PHIL POSITIONS, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED IN ATTACHMENT TO ESPINO LETTER.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE PHILIPPINE AGENDA ITSELF, WE NEED TO BE ALERT TO THE FOLLOWING: ITEM I (NOTE) -- THE STATEMENT THAT THE US WILL CONTINUE TO USE ALL OF THE AREAS WHICH WE LISTED IN OUR AIDE MEMOIRE (REF E) SHOULD BE HELPFUL IN DISCUSSING ARRANGEMENTS FOR EACH OF THEM WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO EITHER COUNTRY'S PREVIOUSLY STATED POSITIONS ON WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE TO BE INCLUDED WITHIN US FACILITIES.

ITEM II--PHRASING OF MANY ITEMS IN THIS SECTION REFLECTS
THE HEAVY HAND OF PHILIPPINE CIVILIAN NEGOTIATORS FROM
THE 1976 ROUND. MILITARY-TO-MILITARY DISCUSSIONS FORMAT
MAY PROVE ESPECIALLY HELPFUL HERE IN FINDING WAYS TO
DISPOSE OF THESE ITEMS IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC ROLE OF
PHILIPPINE BASE COMMANDER RATHER THAN SUBSTANCE OF THORNY
ISSUES SUCH AS CUSTOMS REGULATIONS, TAXATION MATTERS, ETC,
WHICH COULD BOG DOWN ENTIRE DISCUSSION PROGRESS.

- 4. DEFENSE IS SENDING SEPTEL ON SECURITY REQUIREMENTS.
- 5. TOPICS RAISED BY MARCOS (REF F) ARE GOING TO REQUIRE CONFIDENTIAL

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INTENSE WASHINGTON ANALYSIS. IT WOULD BE HIGHLY PROFITABLE IF THEY COULD BE KEPT IN THE MARCOS-MURPHY CHANNEL AND OFF THE MILITARY TALKS, AT LEAST FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

6. IN THE FUTURE, OBSERVATIONS WILL BE SENT THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS AS TIME PERMITS. VANCE

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